

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20

NIC-01 OPR-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /120 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJ: PERONIST MARXIST SHOWDOWN DEVELOPING IN CORDOBA

REF: BA-A-314

1. SUMMARY. ON JULY 12 ARMED MEMBERS OF ORTODOXO SECTOR OF PERONIST

LABOR IN CORDOBA REPORTEDLY SEIZED LOCAL CGT HEADQUARTERS AND HAVE REJECTED ORDER TO VACATE ISSUED BY CORDOBA VICE GOVERNOR ATILIO LOPEZ. ORTODOXOS REPORTEDLY EXCHANGED GUNFIRE WITH LEFTIST GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO DISLODGE THEM DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS JULY 13. SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ORTODOXOS AND LOPEZ-TOSCO LEFTIST PERONIST-MARXIST LABOR ALLIANCE WAS PRECIPITATED BY FIREY TOSCO SPEECH ON JULY 8 CONDEMNING CGT-CGE SOCIAL PACT AND CONFRONTATION IS PROBABLE FACTOR IN CAMPORA RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. TENSION MOUNTS IN CORDOBA WHERE THE MINORITY ORTODOXO SECTOR OF CORDOBA CGT IS NOW ENGAGED IN FRONTAL ASSAULT ON LEFTIST LEGALISTA-INDEPENDENT UNION ALLIANCE WHICH CONTROLS REGIONAL CGT. ON JULY 12 ATILIO LOPEZ, WHO SHARES ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP WITH MARXIST AUGUSTIN TOSCO, RESUMED SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP OF CORDOBA CGT IN APPARENT EFFORT TO THWART ORTODOXO MOVE. LOPEZ HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESIGNED FROM CGT FOLLOWING HIS ELECTION AS VICE GOVERNOR AND ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LABOR SOURCES HE COULD BE OUSTED FROM LATTER POSITION BY PERON IF HE DOES NOT BREAK WITH TOSCO.

3. TOSCO AND HIS YOUNG WORKER AND STUDENT FOLLOWERS ARE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF ATTACK WHICH IS UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO FORCE OFFICIAL GOA INTERVENTION OF CORDOBA CGT AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT UNIONS, PRINCIPALLY TOSCO'S LIGHT AND POWER UNION AND POWERFUL AUTO UNION (SMATA). NATIONAL LIGHT-POWER FEDERATION HAS THREATENED TOSCO'S UNION WITH EXPULSION AND NATIONAL AUTO UNION IS ALSO EXPECTED TO TAKE ACTION. MANY OBSERVERS ATTRIBUTE RECENT MURDER OF SMATA SECGEN

DIRK KLOOSTERMAN TO RADICAL ELEMENTS OF SMATA'S CORDOBA AFFILIATE. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LABOR SOURCES, NEW SMATA SECGEN AND IMPORTANT NATIONAL PERONIST LEADER JOSE RODRIQUEZ, WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS MAIMED BY TERRORIST BOMBING ATTACK LAST YEAR, IS EVIDENTLY A KEYMAN IN MOVE AGAINST LOPEZ-TOSCO FORCES. SAME SOURCES CLAIM PERON WILL REMOVE LOPEZ FROM VICE GOVERNORSHIP SOON.

4. ON JULY 8 AT CORDOBA MEETING OF MARXIST UNIONS BILLED AS FIRST ANTI-BUREAUCRATIC CONGRESS, TOSCO ATTACKED THE CAMPORA GOVERNMENT AND PROCLAIMED NECESSITY OF MAKING CORDOBA "SOCIALIST HOMELAND" OF ARGENTINA. SINGLING OUT LABMIN RICARD OTERO, MINFIN JOSE GELBARD AND CGT SECGEN JOSE RUCCI, TOSCO DENOUNCED CGT-CGE SOCIAL TRUCE AND DESCRIBED CONFRONTATION WITH ORTODOXOS AS OPEN COMBAT WHICH WILL LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CORDOBA AS CAPITAL OF SOCIALIST COUNTRY. AMONG OTHER DEMANDS HE CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WHICH WAS SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS UNDER TERMS OF SOCIAL PAST. HE ATTACKED RUCCI AND NATIONAL CGT LEADERS AS UNION BUREAUCRATS WHO HAVE BETRAYED THE WORKING CLASS.

5. ON JULY 12 RUCCI SEEMED TO SET THE STAGE FOR SHOWDOWN WHEN HE ADMONISHED CORDOBA WORKERS IN PRESS STATEMENT TO REMEMBER THAT ORGANIZED LABOR RESPONDS "TO ONE LEADER, ONE LEADER ONLY, JUAN DOMINGO PERON." HE SAID NO ONE CAN OBEY ORDERS EMANATING FROM ANY CENTRAL OTHER THAN THE NATIONAL CGT, THE VOICE OF PERON, AND THAT TOSCO MUST ACCEPT CGT DIRECTIVES OR "CONTINUE HIS PREACHINGS IN SOME OTHER COUNTRY WHICH IS NOT OUR OWN." PERONIST-MARXIST CONFRONTATION HAS PRECIPITATED RUMORS IN LABOR SECTOR THAT PERON WILL SOON RESTRUCTURE NATIONAL CGT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD HIS CONTROL OVER LABOR AND MAY ALSO REMOVE MANY LEADERS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELIMINATE PERONIST LABOR'S BUREAUCRATIC IMAGE WHICH IS FOCAL POINT OF ATTACK FROM LEFT.

6. COMMENT: SITUATION IN CORDOBA IS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE. MUCH

DEPENDS ON LOPEZ. IF HE REFUSES TO SEPARATE FROM TOSCO, A CLEAR MAJORITY OF CORDOBA'S 56 UNIONS, WHICH REPRESENT A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF 250,000, COULD BE MUSTERED AGAINST THE ORTODOXOS AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. PERONIST GOVERNOR OF CORDOBA, RICHARDO OBRECON CANO, WHOSE PRINCIPAL SUPPORT COMES FROM LOPEZ-TOSCO FORCES, IS ALSO FACED WITH HARD DECISIONS WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY LEAD TO HIS OUSTER. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS IMPACT OF CORDOBA SITUATION ON CAMPORA'S RESIGNATION BUT TOSCO'S ATTACK ON THE PERON-INSPIRED SOCIAL PACT AND HIS ROLE IN NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO DISCREDIT NATIONAL CGT LEADERS, WHICH THREATENS PERON'S PRINCIPAL POWER BASE, UNDOUBTEDLY FIGURE IN SWEEPING GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES.

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